

Comment on Docket #17-199

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DSL and Mobile cannot replace Wired Broadband.

the FCC has recently suggested that maybe users do not need wired broadband and that "Mobile Broadband" might be sufficient for their uses, as well as insinuating on multiple occasions that DLS should qualify as competition implying this too is sufficient. Neither mobile broadband nore DSL should in any way qualify is true wired broadband for the purposes of considering competition.

I am a software engineer who worked from home (telecommuted) for 2 years in rural Virginia, for a company located in San Francisco, CA. I work in internet hosting reliability, so unusually aware of how to make best use of what bandwidth I do have. For the first year I was on DSL... while I was able to do my job, that was only *barely*, and only because my company is a small startup (a Y combinator funded startup called Meteor) and does not require VPN. Needs/requirements for this type of usage are constantly increasing and I do not believe I could do that same job from the same location even now, for lack of true broadband. My connection was 5Mb/s, almost identical to the fastest mobile broadband. For the second year I had real broadband (80Mb/s), and I believe my productivity doubled or better as a result. As an expert in reliable systems I played a critical role in this startup shipping it's first product that made revenue, a product that probably would not have shipped before hitting the end of their funding runway had it not been for hiring me remotely.

This type of usage of the internet is becoming increasingly common. It is no longer the exception, but the norm, that people do some work from home. The ability for employees to do such work from home has a huge impact in the net productivity of every major company as well as many small ones such

as the one I worked for. Mobile broadband and DSL are both simply too slow and unreliable to be able to do such work usefully, and the bandwidth requirements for such work are constantly going up, not down.

As a concerned citizen and telecommutor, I ask you to please take in to account the damage that allowing local monopolies on true broadband will do to the American economy. The U.S. is already way behind most other first world countries in internet speeds. This is holding the U.S. back economically, in the most literal sense it is slowing trade, and reducing the amount of work that we can get done as a country.

You must conclude that true wired broadband, as historically defined (25 Mbps), is fundamentally a different service than slower speeds. If anything we should move the definition higher, to 100 Mbps, not lower, to keep up with the rest of the world.

Thank you